

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15  
STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 FRB-03 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 /068 W  
-----211840Z 027129 /46

O R 211730Z MAR 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3468  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO  
USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF  
SHAPE FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4613

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

REF: A. ROME 4534 (NOTAL) B. ROME 4516 (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI TODAY BEGINS BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ABSTAINING PARTIES THAT SUPPORT HIS MINORITY GOVERNMENT ON THE PRE-CONDITIONS THAT THE IMF HAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE GRANTING OF A STABILIZATION LOAN. THESE CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF INCREASING POLITICAL TENSION, WITH MANY OBSERVERS PREDICTING A POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT CRISIS.

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2. THE ULTIMATE POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY THE TRADE UNIONS, INTRANSIGENT TO DATE ON THESE ISSUES, IS UNKNOWN. THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTY PARTICIPANTS (THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS) DENY ANY INTENTION OF PRECIPITATING A CRISIS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, BUT REPEAT WITH INCREASING FIRMNESS (ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNISTS) THEIR DEMAND FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY (I.E.,

INCLUDING EVERYBODY EXCEPT THE EXTREMISTS OF RIGHT AND LEFT). THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFORM ANDREOTTI'S CONSULTATIONS ON THE IMF LOAN INTO CONSULTATIONS LEADING TO A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE PROGRAM ACROSS THE BOARD. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD, IN THEIR VIEW, THEN NATURALLY BE FOLLOWED BY A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. PRESENT ATTITUDES WITHIN THE DC INDICATE THAT IT WILL NOT ACCEPT SUCH PROPOSALS, BUT WILL PRESS ANDREOTTI TO INSIST ON GETTING AN ANSWER FOR THE IMF. THE COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS AND THE UNIONS ARE, THEREFORE, LIKELY TO BE FACED WITH THE DILEMMA OF AGREEING TO ECONOMIC MEASURES THEY DO NOT LIKE OR ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR KILLING OFF THE IMF LOAN TO WHICH ITALIANS RIGHTLY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE.

3. IN VIEW OF DC ATTITUDES AND COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST FEAR OF NEW PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, THE VIEW HERE IS THAT A CRISIS WILL NOT BE PRECIPITATED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND THAT TEMPORIZING MEASURES WILL BE FOUND THAT WILL PUT THE SHOWDOWN OFF FOR ADDITIONAL WEEKS OR MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN THE HIGH LEVEL OF TENSION AND DISSATISFACTION OF ALL MAJOR PARTICIPANTS (FOR DIFFERING REASONS), THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IRRATIONALLY STIMULATED CRISIS CANNOT BE COMPLETELY EXCLUDED. BARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009